I am greatly humbled and honoured to be appointed and inaugurated as the Pioneer Pro-chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council of the Jigawa State University, Kafin Hausa. It is an unexpected honour, but a very pleasant one. I would therefore like to offer my sincere gratitude to His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Jigawa State and the Pioneer Visitor to the University, Alhaji Sule Lamido, CON, for reposing his confidence in us and believing in our abilities to provide leadership and direction to this very promising university. Your Excellency, we must not only thank you, but also salute your courage and foresight. It is you who conceived of the idea of having a befitting State-owned university in Jigawa; it is you who set up and facilitated the work of a high-powered Technical Committee under Professor Munzali Jibril to plan for the establishment of the University; it is you who set up and supported another high-powered Implementation Committee for the University; it is you who laid the foundations of, and built all the superstructures that are dotted all over this Campus; and it is you who is continuously supporting and inspiring the leadership of this university. You dreamt. You conceived. You planned. And you implemented that plan. We must doff out hats for your foresight. We must thank you for creating Jigawa State University, Kafin Hausa. And we must continue to build this University in your image.
Permit me, Your Excellency, to also express our appreciation to the members of the Implementation Committee of the Jigawa State University, especially the Chairman of the Committee and Honourable Commissioner of Education, Professor Haruna Wakili for the commitment and professionalism which they invested in their assignment. They have been very meticulous, very detailed, and very patriotic in everything they have done for this University. Some of us have been privileged to serve in that Committee and we know, first hand, the wonderful job that they have done. Thank you very much. I also want to thank the Management of the University, under the leadership of the Vice Chancellor, Professor A. Y. Ribadu, with whom we have already started working.

I have accepted this important responsibility of chairing the Governing Council of this University with every sense of responsibility, commitment and conviction. Whenever I reflect upon the history and the process of establishing this University, the very keen interest of the Governor, his clear vision, and his deep understanding and appreciation of the importance university education, I get further strengthened and convinced that the Jigawa State University Project is one project that every worthy educationist would want to be associated with.

As Governing Council, we will play our roles with skill and efficiency. We will be bold, courageous, innovative and responsive. We will provide the governance and the leadership that will stimulate rapid growth for the University and make it competitive and attractive. In doing these, we will ensure that the University’s planning and growth are in consonance with the Vision of its Founding Father as well as the aspirations of the people of Jigawa State. We will maintain appropriate relationships with the Management, Senate and other statutory organs of the University as well as establishing the leadership and accountability responsibilities of the Vice chancellor.

Your Excellency, governance and management are two distinct responsibilities in the university system. That distinction is very clear in my mind. We will set the policies. We will define the directions. And we will support the Management as they implement those policies and decisions of the Governing Council. We will monitor the effective entrenchment of functional committee system and the diversification of participation in decision-making process as veritable ingredients for qualitative and transparent leadership in the University. We will annually review the university budget and monitor its
performance as well as assessing the overall impact of its implementation. We will diversify the sources of funding and support for the University, bearing in mind that the major funding source is the Proprietor.

We will work very hard to build a University that will be guided by global best practices with scholars that are driven by the thirst to create, re-create and disseminate knowledge. We will work very hard to entrench an excellent academic culture whose fulcrum is research, innovation and quality scholarship for the advancement of humanity. We will be disciplined and we will promote discipline. We will be transparent and accountable and we will promote transparency and accountability. We will work very hard and we will reward hardwork. These we can only achieve with your continuous support and understanding. I have no iota of doubt that your continuous support and understanding are assured.

Your Excellency, on behalf of all the members, I want to thank you most profoundly for the composition of this Governing council. Looking at the calibre and quality of the members of this Council, I have no doubt in my mind that you want us to succeed. I want to thank you very much on behalf of all members of the Council and assure you that we will not disappoint.

**Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed, mni, MFR**
Pro Chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council
Jigawa State University, Kafin Hausa